ready except a small stretch passing through defence land;

(c) what are the reasons for not considering the request so far, since it is for the public purpose and will help to relieve the traffic congestion at Bangalore; and

(d) whether Government will consider the request in the public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Defence have agreed to transfer 17 acres and 14 gunth as of Defence Land (17 acres in Agaram Plains, 9 gunthas in Sy. No. 53 of Iblur Village and 5 gunthas in Sy. No. 21 of Haralakunte village) to the State Govt. of Karnataka for the Ring Road Project in exchange for State Govt. land of equivalent area and payment of difference in the value of Defence land and State Govt. land.

Establishment of firing range in Jharkhand region

6355. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made by defence ministry to establish a field firing range in tribal region of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any resistance by the tribals to the project and if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news items "Army Project main issue in Jharkhand region" that appeared in the Hindu dated 2nd March, 1995; and

(e) whether Government will relocate the project outside Jharkhand region in view of the opposition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) There is already a Range notified by Government of Bihar since 1956 and upto May 2002. Keeping in view the needs of the Army, a Pilot Project was taken up to acquire some of the land for impact area, camping ground etc. Considering the representations received from local population, the Central Government have decided not to progress this Pilot Project.

(d) and (e) The Government is aware of the captioned news item. The State Government of Bihar have agreed to make available an alternative site to relocate the Project.

Expansion of Naval Training Centre at Orissa

6356. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand the Naval Training Centre at Chilka in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The existing training facilities at Chilka are considered adequate to cater for the present level of induction in the Navy. As such, there is no plan for expansion of Naval Training Centre at Chilka.

Enquiry against Air Force Depot, Avadi

6357. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an enquiry has been completed against the Air Force Depot at Avadi for holding on with stock and stores of shop-soiled shoes/boots for airforce personnel;

(b) whether the quality of such shoes has been compromised and the procurement of about 30,000 pairs has been a total loss;